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No 542.

From the DUBLIN-SOCIETY.



I think ourselves under particular Obligations to the Gentlemen, who have favoured us with their ingenious and useful Remarks upon several Parts of Husbandry. We hope they will forgive us, that we have not, as yet, taken any publick Notice of their Letters; we are satisfy'd, they will agree with us, that the Article we are at present engaged in, is of the greatest Importance to this Country, and that nothing ought to interrupt the Attention of the Publick to such an useful Subject: We shall therefore proceed to present our Readers with a third Letter on the Linen Manufacture.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN the Land is brought into proper Order, by the Tillage described in my last Letter, the Husbandman's next Care must be, to fit it for the Seed; this is done in Zealand, by laying it out in broad, flat Ridges, divided by small Trenches. The Ridges are generally Fifty, Sixty, or sometimes Seventy Feet broad, and the Trenches Two or Three Feet deep, and a Foot and an half wide: By these Means, the Lands are kept in a proper Degree of Moisture; the broad, flat Ridges, retain enough to preserve them from growing dry, and the Trenches carry off whatsoever is superfluous. This Practice, I beg Leave, earnestly to recommend; and by the Time our Husbandmen have tried it, I am bold to say, they will not find that Danger in wet Clays, which they apprehend from them; the Trenches will carry off all that Water, which might scald, or otherwise prejudice the Flax, and when that is done, the remaining Moisture, which in high round Ridges is too soon exhausted, is of absolute Necessity to secure a valuable Crop. The Flemish Farmers are so thoroughly convinced of this, that in their light and drier Soils, they made no Trenches, but commonly lay down whole Fields, as flat and even as a Bowling-Green; and this, in order to retain all the Moisture they can get, and thereby protect their Crop from the Dryness and Heat of Summer. I have now finished what I think necessary to be said concerning the Choice of Soils, and the Manner of preparing them for Flax. Upon the Whole, there is no room to doubt, that were the Method I have pointed at, diligently pursued, the succeeding Profit and Advantage, would abundantly reward all the additional Labour and Expence of the Farmer in this Article.

I shall now proceed to give you my Thoughts upon the Nature and Properties of good Flax-Seed, and the Time and Manner of sowing it. Nothing is plainer, than that the Farmer cannot be too nice in the Choice of his Seed, since the Value of his Crop must chiefly depend upon its Goodness. In general, the shortest, plumpest, thickest, oylest, heaviest Seed, of a bright brown Colour, is esteemed the best. The Dutch Boor is very exact in examining these several Qualities, and makes his Trials in the following Manner. In order to discover its Thickness, he takes a large handful and squeezes it, until the Edges appear plainly between his Finger and Thumb; for it is entirely from the Edges, he forms his Judgment in that Particular. To try its Weight, he throws a handful into a Glass of Water; if it sinks soon, he is sure it is heavy and good; if otherwise, he judges it unfit for his Purpose. To examine its oyliness, he throws a Quantity into the Fire, if it blaze soon, and crackle much, he thinks he may depend upon it. After all, he sometimes sows it in a hot Bed, and in short, leaves no Method untry'd, which will ensure him that his Seed is of the best Kind.

I have only mentioned these minute Circumstances to show, how curious we ought to be in the Choice of our Seed.

What I have now to add, is an Advice of great Importance to all Husbandmen, and particularly so

to the Flax-Farmer; namely, not to depend on a Succession of good Seed from the same Soil. The best Clays will not preserve the Seed from degenerating by Degrees, if it be sown for any considerable Time on the same Kind of Soil, from which it has been sav'd. It looeth every where something of its Goodness by that Management; and tho' less in Clays, than in any other Ground, yet even in those it will finally decay. For that Reason it is necessary in all Soils, to change the Seed, and the more frequently it is done, the better; the common Rule in this Case is, to buy from lighter Grounds, and sow on Clays, and to buy from clayey Soils to sow on lighter Grounds, and the Rule well understood, is undoubtedly a good one: But as I am perfectly convinced that light Grounds do not afford good Seed, I must beg leave to explain the Rule at large, and prevent all Mistakes about it. Where the Farmer intends to raise a good Crop of Flax-Seed, he must avoid light, dry, and sandy Grounds. They are never to be us'd with any other Purposes, than to procure fine Flax, and always disappoint the Farmer when he hopes for good Seed from them. 'Tis not therefore those light Lands that can be depended on for Change. The Farmer, who expects good Seed, must confine himself to Clays of different Sorts, which will afford sufficient room for Change. The Seed rais'd in the stiffer Kind will be best sown on the looser, and the mellow which come nearest to a Loam, and the Produce of those again, will serve for proper Seed on the stiffest and the deepest; the smallest Variation in the Nature of the Soil is sufficient to preserve the Seed; and nobody need be informed, that Clays differ much from one another. In Ireland we have them almost of all Kinds; and therefore can be under no Temptation to have recourse to lighter Soils, which never improve the Seed; but on the contrary, constantly impair it. I have been the more particular on this Point, because the common Prejudice entertain'd in this Country against Clays, appears to me of very pernicious Consequence. They so materially affect our Linen Trade, that no Pains can be bestow'd to more Advantage, than those which are directed to remove them. I shall therefore add, to what I hitherto observed from the Practice of other Countries, a remarkable Instance, in this Kingdom, of the Usefulness of clayey Soils. 'Tis known that the *Cavan* Lands are deep, strong Clays: An Experiment was try'd some time ago, what Effect they would have upon decay'd Seed. In order to this, a Barrel of the most degenerate Flax-Seed that could be got in the North, was carried to Munster, and sown in those Lands; there it recovered, and produced very good Flax; the Seed return'd by those rich, stiff Clays, was as good as could be used, and improv'd beyond all Expectation; inasmuch, that the Seed sent back to the North, and again sown there, afforded as good Flax and Flax-Seed as any from Abroad. The Fact is notorious, and was communicated to the Publick by another Hand, and the Consequence, methinks, as obvious, that the deep Clay Soils are the best for Flax-Seed.

I shall conclude this Letter, by observing, that since the Choice of Seed is a Point of the highest Moment, 'tis a manifest Absurdity to depend upon foreign Markets. 'Tis not to be expected, that the Dutch, or any other Nation, will deprive themselves of their best Seed; we must be satisfy'd with the Refuse of their Flax-crops, till we take Care to raise better of our own. Add to this, that since all Seed is not equally fitted to all Soils, we are under an absolute Necessity of raising Seed among ourselves. For the Countryman, who is to sow the Seed he gets from Abroad, can never be assured of the particular Kind of Soil, where it was raised, and of Consequence, runs a considerable Risque, of being disappointed in his Crop: Whereas, did we heartily engage in sowing Flax-Seed, in the several Parts of Ireland, which are proper for it, the Farmer might depend upon his Seed, adapt it to his Soil, and, with a little Care, secure a certain Crop.

I am, &c.

Extract of a private Letter from Inverness.

The trading People of this Place, are unanimously fixed and stedfast in the Resolution to prevent Smuggling. They having Information of a Ship belonging to Portferry, come on with Wines and Salt, immediately acquainted the three principal Officers of the Customs thereof; 12 Hogheads are since seized in the Precinct of Aberdeen. William Binning, Waiter in this Port, has likewise seized 22 Hogheads of the same Cargo, which are secured in the King's Warehouse; and the Surveyor General (Mr. Baillie) is gone to Portferry to seize the Ship, and what remains on board of the Cargo: And we hope such Measures will be taken, as will suppress this pernicious and villainous Trade for ever in these Parts.

Edinburgh, March 15. Friday last William MacLaughlan, was brought from the Castle with a Captain's Command of the City Guard, to his Trial at the Bar of the High Court of Judiciary, for the Murder of Capt. Porcous, and after long Pleadings on the Relevancy, the Court ordered the Parties to inform, and adjourned to Friday next.

Yesterday Morning died Mr. Hugh Fleming, Writer to the Signet.

Friday last the Lady of Sir Robert Morton of Gogar, Bart. was safely delivered of a Son.

Last Friday an Act of Council was publish'd by Tuck of Drum, discharging idle Persons from walking the Streets after Ten o'Clock at Night; and offering a Reward of 10 l. to any Person for apprehending Robert Bruce and James Campbell, Cordners, who have committed great Disorders in the Streets; and we hear Bruce has since been taken.

Dublin, March 14. Saturday last the Hon. Mrs. Burton was safely delivered of a Son and Heir, at her House in Henry-street.

There are a Set of Rogues in this Town, who have made a Practice of going to Gentlemen's Houses as if they were sent by them for their Big-Coats and other Things, and by giving a false Token, have got them and gone off; they have particularly practised upon the Gentlemen of the Custom-House.

Ipswich, March 18. We hear from Bury St. Edmund's, that 10 Persons are capitally convicted, of which 6 have received Sentence of Death.

The Parsonage House of Holton in Suffolk, was last Week broke up and robbed, by two Middle-sized Men in dark-colour'd Cloaths, and a good Reward is offered by Mr. Stephen White for apprehending them.

Norwich, March 19. At the Assizes at Thetford, the following Persons were severally convicted, and received Sentence of Death accordingly, viz. John Painter, and John Johnson alias Blade, for Felony and Horse-stealing. William Wright, for Felony, and Robbery on the Highway.

Henry Reynolds was also convicted of Horse-stealing, and received Sentence of Death accordingly, but is since reprieved in order for Transportation. William Daws and Thomas Batho, were severally convicted of Felony within the Benefit of the Clergy, and are ordered to be transported for Seven Years. They were brought from Thetford last Monday to Norwich. The three former are to be executed next Monday, and the Gallows is already set up on the Castle-Hill.

This Week one John Ellis was brought to the Castle for breaking open a House in East Russett, and taking from thence about 20 l.

L O N D O N.

Yesterday his Majesty went to the House of Peers with the usual State, attended by his Grace the Duke of Richmond, Master of the Horse to the King, and the Right Hon. the Earl Cowper, one of the Lords of the Bed-chamber in Waiting, and being in his Robes, seated on the Throne, the Royal Assent was given to the following Acts, viz.

An Act to punish Mutiny and Desertion, and for the better Payment of the Army and their Quarters.

An Act for laying a Duty of Two-penny Scots, or one Sixth Part of a Penny Sterling, upon every Pint of Ale or Beer which shall be vended or sold within the Town of Dunbar, for improving and preserving the Harbour, and repairing the Town-House.

House, and building a School and other Public Buildings there; and for supplying the said Town with fresh Water.

An Act to enable Anthony James, Esq; and his Heirs Male, and other Persons therein mentioned, to take and use the Surname of Keck, pursuant to the Will of Anthony Keck, Gent. deceased.

And to Two Naturalization Bills.

Yesterday the Justices of the Peace for the City and Liberty of Westminster, met at Westminster Hall pursuant to their last Adjournment, and several Persons who stood bound over, appeared on their Recognizances, after which the Court adjourned to the 2d of April.

The Right Rev. Dr. Secker Lord Bishop of Bristol, will be translated to the See of Oxford, and the Rev. Dr. Gooch, Brother-in-Law to the Lord Bishop of Salisbury, will succeed to the See of Bristol.

On Saturday last the old Fellow who was condemn'd at the Assizes at Winchester, for the Murder of his Grandson, a Youth about 14 Years of Age, was executed there, and was afterwards carried to the Isle of Wight, in order to be hung in Chains near the Place where the Fact was committed.

Last Thursday his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, was chose one of the Governors of the Charter House, in the room of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, deceased.

The same Day his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, was also chose one of the Governors of the said House, in the room of the Right Hon. the late Lord Chancellor, deceased.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Portmore, one of the Sixteen Peers of Scotland, is very ill at his House in St. James's Square.

Last Saturday died at his House at Winchelsea in the County of Sussex, Philip Bennet, Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County.

Last Sunday Morning between Six and Seven o'Clock, Mr. Stephen Mansell, going from his House at Hounslow to Colebrook, was attacked by two Foot Pads, who robbed him of a Silver Watch, Seven Shillings in Silver, and some Half pence, and then made off towards Hounslow Heath.

Yesterday the Serjeants and Corporals of the third Regiment of Foot Guards, were exercised by Adjutant Jones, before Major Legg and several other Officers on the Parade in St. James's Park, and perform'd the same with universal Applause.

We hear that the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, intends to build a new Choir in Westminster Abbey in a magnificent Manner, after the Model of that of St. Paul's.

Bank Stock 147 to 1-4th for the Opening. India no Price. South Sea 103 1-half Old Annuity 111 3-4ths for the Opening. New ditto, 111 1-4th. Three per Cent. 106 3-4ths. Emperor's Loan 116 to 1-8th. Royal Assurance 109 1-4th. London Assurance 14 7-8ths. African 14. India Bonds 61. 12s. to 13s. Premium. Three per Cent. ditto, 61. 12s. Prem. South Sea ditto 31. 14s. Prem. New Bank Circulation 21. 10s. Prem. Salt Tallies 1 1-half to 4 Prem. English Copper 21. 12s. to 15s. Welsh ditto, no Price. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 6 1-half to 3-4ths per Cent. Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 2 1-4th per Cent. Prem. Million Bank 120.

South Sea House, London, March 18, 1736-7.

WHEREAS at a general Court of the South Sea Company held this Day, it was on a Motion made and seconded, Resolved, That such Proprietors of the Bonds of this Company, as through Accidents or Inadvertency, have omitted to bring in their Bonds on or before the 15th of February last to be mark'd for Continuance at Three per Cent. might be at Liberty so to do at any Time before the 25th Inst. but in regard, it is apprehended to be necessary, that another general Court should be called to take the said Resolution into Consideration, in order for Confirming the same. The Court of Directors of the South Sea Company do therefore give Notice, that a general Court of the said Company, will be held at their House in Threadneedle-street, on Friday the 1st Day of April next at Eleven in the Forenoon, for the Purpose aforesaid. And the Court of Directors do further give Notice, that all such Proprietors of the Bonds of this Company, who shall be desirous to have their Bonds continued at Three per Cent. do, before the 25th Inst. bring their Bonds in to be mark'd, in order for their being continued at Three per Cent. Interest, in Case the next general Court shall think fit to agree with the said Resolution.

This Day is Published,
With the Author's Effigies engraven by Mr. VERTUE;
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Bow Church-yard, Nov. 3, 1736.

MR. THOMAS COBB, Printer
and Engraver, who married the Widow of the late Mr. JOHN CLUER, at the Maiden-head, the lower End of Bow Church-yard, in Cheapside, London, having assigned and sold the said Printing-house and Business to his Brother-in-law WILLIAM DICEY,

This Publick Notice is given,

That WILLIAM DICEY, for Himself and his Son CLUER DICEY, being provided with complete Sets of new Types, and all other Materials, carry on, in the most expeditious Manner, all Business, both in the LETTER and ROLLING-PRESS Way.

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